

# SUPPORT HB938/SB138

Topic: DEQ to require publicly owned treatment works to monitor industrial wastewater for PFAS  
Bill Patron: Delegate Clark/Senator McPike

## OVERVIEW:

SB138 and HB938 require industrial users that discharge to publicly owned treatment works to monitor and report PFAS—establishing Virginia’s first comprehensive system to identify and track industrial sources of these “forever chemical” pollutants. SB138 mandates quarterly PFAS monitoring of industrial wastewater dischargers and continued testing if PFAS is detected.

This legislation is urgently needed because PFAS contamination is widespread in Virginia’s drinking water, surface waters, and biosolids, affecting 2.5 million residents and disproportionately impacting low-income and minority communities. PFAS are linked to cancer, immune suppression, and developmental harms and are not removed by standard treatment systems, leaving utilities and ratepayers to shoulder significant costs while polluters avoid accountability.

## REASONS TO SUPPORT:

- These bills address PFAS pollution at its source by examining how PFAS enter industrial processes and ultimately make their way into wastewater treatment plants, ensuring Virginia can identify and control contamination along the entire lifecycle of these chemicals.
- These bills close major regulatory gaps by requiring statewide PFAS monitoring for industrial discharges that are currently untracked in Virginia.
- SB138 and HB938 provide DEQ with consistent data needed to understand PFAS discharges and guide future regulatory action.
- EPA’s 2024 PFAS drinking water limits require utilities to meet new benchmarks by 2029—data from SB138 and HB938 will help identify and manage contributors to PFAS loads.
- Understanding and tracking PFAS contamination is essential for protecting Virginia’s fisheries and shellfish industries, which play a major role in the state’s economy and support the health of the Chesapeake Bay and local waterways through natural water filtration.



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This position was taken by Virginia Conservation Network (VCN)'s Legislative Committee and Board of Directors and is supported by Virginia's conservation community. For a complete list of VCN positions, visit [www.vcnva.org/bill-tracker](http://www.vcnva.org/bill-tracker). VCN is committed to building a powerful, diverse, and highly-coordinated conservation movement focused on protecting our Commonwealth's natural resources today and for tomorrow.